



**DA Print Edition**  
**#20812**

# MAVES

Two Sayings from the *Tao*  
In the Form of a Scherzo

Mixed Chorus  
SATB  
with Piano Accompaniment

# Two Sayings from the *Tao*

These songs owe their inspiration to two people. Rob Taylor, the choral conductor (and my good colleague here at the College of Charleston) who commissioned them and who in this process got me fascinated with Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching* (pronounced “Dao De Jing”); and to my long time dear friend, Dr. Shiangtai Tuan of Durham, North Carolina who spent a good many hours looking up original texts and helping me translate them.

The Chinese calligraphy is glorious in itself and an inspiration as a work of visual art. I have interpolated some of the lightness and humor into my settings based upon what I feel is an often missing part of the glory and profundity of this philosophy and of these intriguing verses.



**South Carolina Arts Commission**  
1800 Gervais Street • Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
803-734-8696 Fax: 803-734-8526  
[www.state.sc.us/arts](http://www.state.sc.us/arts)



*THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION WHICH RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS*

*THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE*

**David W. Maves**

mavesd@cofc.edu — <http://www.cofc.edu/~mavesweb>

**DAPrint Music Preparation / Publishing**

datimp@cox.net — <http://members.cox.net/datimp/>

# ***From the Tao***

## **#11**

### 第十一章

三十輻，共一轂，當其無，有車之用。  
埴埴以為器，當其無，有器之用。  
鑿戶牖以為室，當其無，有室之用。  
故有之以為利，無之以為用。

**Thirty spokes share one hub, in a wheel,  
but it is the powered center space  
that makes the wheel turn.  
Clay is moulded into a pot,  
but it is the empty space inside that we will want to use.  
We put up walls for a house,  
but it is the space inside that we will want to use.  
We're concerned with existence,  
but that which isn't, is useful too.**

## **#36**

### 第三十六章

將欲歛之，必故張之；將欲弱之，必故強之；將欲廢之，  
必故興之；將欲取之，必故與之。是謂微明。  
柔弱勝剛強。魚不可脫于淵，國之利器不可以示人。

**That which you would have compacted,  
you should first insist it be expanded.  
That which is about to weaken  
has itself been flourishing and strengthened.  
That which is about to fall,  
surely has been raised up ever higher.  
Those who are about to be ruined  
have surely been endowed.  
The soft will over come the hard.  
The weak will over come the strong.  
Therefore beware of pomp and preciousness.  
Let your works be your reward.**